

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for bending glass panels, said apparatus comprising :
  - an upper tier of successive mould carriages [(9)], having a front or back wall [(11)] thereof separating from each other at least the following stations: successive preheating stations [(2, 3)] including a last preheating station, and one or more successive a bending station, bending stations (4a, 4b) from each other, and at least one pre-bending station upstream of the bending station, said mould carriages [(9)] being adapted to be intermittently movable towards the bending station [(4b)];
  - a lower tier of successive mould carriages [(9)], having a front or back wall [(11)] thereof separating successive cooling stations [(5, 6, 7)] from each other, said mould carriages ~~being (9)~~ being adapted to be intermittently movable in a direction opposite to the moving direction of the upper tier carriages;
  - a number of bending moulds [(12)] supported by the mould carriages [(9)];
  - first radiation heating elements [(13, 14)] in the ceiling of the preheating stations at least in some [(3)] of the preheating stations;
  - second radiation heating elements [(14)] in the ceiling of the pre-bending and one or more bending stations [(4a, 4b)];

- an intermediate floor ~~[[ (15) ]]~~ which separates the at least one pre-bending station ~~(4a) upstream of the bending station (4b) and/or at least~~ and the last preheating station ~~[[ (3b) ]]~~ from a cooling station ~~[[ (5) ]]~~ therebelow;

- a lift mechanism ~~[[ (20) ]]~~ for lowering the mould carriages ~~[[ (9) ]]~~ from the upper tier to the lower tier together with bent glass panels; and

third radiation heat elements disposed on top of the intermediate floor;

wherein the mould carriages ~~(9) being provided with~~ have an open-structured or otherwise highly heat transmitting floor ~~[[ (10) ]]~~, ~~characterized in that on top of the intermediate floor (15) are~~ and the third radiation heating elements ~~[[ (16) ]]~~ are positioned below the level defined by ~~[[a]]~~ the floor ~~[[ (10) ]]~~ of the mould carriage ~~[[ (9) ]]~~; and

wherein the third radiation heating elements are disposed adjacent to one another in a lateral direction relative to at least one of the last preheating station and the at least one pre-bending station.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ apparatus as set forth in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the third radiation heating elements ~~[[ (16) ]]~~ comprise open resistances.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ apparatus as set forth in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the third radiation heating elements ~~[[ (16) ]]~~ are ~~divided~~ for formed as resistance rod elements ~~(16a, 16b, 16c)~~ adjacent to each other in a lateral direction ~~of the station (3b, 4a) and~~ having individually adjustable heating effects.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ apparatus as set forth in claim 1, ~~wherein any of claims 1-3, characterized in that~~ the third radiation heating elements ~~[[ (16) ]]~~ lie on top of the intermediate floors ~~[[ (16) ]]~~ of at least the ~~final~~ last preheating station ~~[[ (3b) ]]~~ and the at least one pre-bending station ~~[[ (4a) ]]~~.

5. (Currently amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ apparatus as set forth in claim 1, ~~wherein any of claims 1-4, characterized in that~~ the third radiation heating elements ~~[[ (16) ]]~~ have a lengthwise direction which is the same as that of the furnace, and that the radiation heating elements ~~[[ (16b) ]]~~ present in the middle section in the lateral direction of the furnace have a heating effect which is individually adjustable relative to the heating effect of the heating elements ~~(16a and 16c)~~ on either side thereof, the heating effects below the middle section and end sections of a pair of glass panels to be bent being adjustable relative to each other.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ apparatus as set forth in claim 1 ~~[[or 2]], characterized in that~~ wherein the floor of one or more preheating stations ~~[[ (3a) ]]~~ is open and provided with heating resistances, with reflectors underneath the latter.

7. (Currently amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ apparatus as set forth in claim 1, comprising preheating stations ~~[[ (2) ]]~~ in ~~the~~ an upstream end of the upper tier of successive mould carriages, in which the heating of glass panels is effected by ~~the application of~~ applying forced convection ~~receiving~~ which receives its thermal energy from glass panels in ~~the~~ a cooling process ~~of cooling~~ in the downstream stations

[[ (7) ] ] of the lower tier of successive mold carriages, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein heating resistances are mounted on top of convectional blowpipes or boxes present on the floor of the preheating stations [ (2) ].